

Application No. 09/775,891
Amendment dated August 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 16, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-49 (Canceled)

50. (Currently amended) A connector for engaging along a femur that has an upper head end thereof with a prosthetic hip implant including a stem extending in the femur and a ball projecting from the femur head end, the connector comprising:

an elongate lower portion for extending along the femur below the head end thereof;

a substantially rigid body of the lower portion;

a plurality of cable openings in the rigid lower portion body ~~for receiving cables extending therethrough and about the femur;~~

a plurality of cables for being received in the cable openings to extend therethrough and about the femur;

a plurality of apertures in the rigid lower portion body;

a plurality of holding devices configured to be carried on the rigid lower portion body in the apertures for being advanced therein for securing the cables in the cable openings to secure the lower portion to the femur;

an upper portion for greater trochanter reattachment to the femur upper head end, the upper portion being integral with the lower portion;

a body of the upper portion that has a predetermined arcuate configuration to cradle the greater trochanter; and

at least one distal tip end of the arcuate upper portion body configured for biting into the greater trochanter so that the arcuate upper portion body securely cradles and grips the greater trochanter to avoid formation of screw through openings in the upper portion body and use of bone screws extending therethrough for securing the upper portion body to the greater trochanter and that may otherwise interfere with the prosthetic stem in the femur.

51. (Previously presented) The connector of claim 50 wherein the lower portion body includes bone screw slots extending therethrough with the lower portion body having a longitudinal axis and the slots being elongated along the lower portion body axis to allow bone screws to be extended through the slots at various angles to the axis to avoid contacting the prosthetic stem in the femur.

52. (Previously presented) The connector of claim 50 wherein the lower portion body includes bone screw through openings having tapered walls extending thereabout to provide a compression fit with bone screws received and tightened therein and for drawing the arcuate upper portion body tightly against the greater trochanter.

53. (Previously presented) The connector of claim 50 wherein the upper portion body includes at least one cable retaining structure for receiving a cable extending therealong and about the greater trochanter and femur head end to secure the greater trochanter thereon.

54. (Previously presented) The connector of claim 53 wherein the upper portion body includes a portion proximal to the lower portion that is narrower than the lower portion body, the cable retaining structure comprises a cable opening in the body portion, the body portion includes at least one aperture and a holding device configured to be carried on the narrow body portion in the aperture thereof.

55. (Previously presented) The connector of claim 50 wherein the upper portion body includes a driver opening generally aligned with and opposite the distal tip end allowing a driver tool to engage therewith for driving the tip end into the greater trochanter from a remote position relative thereto.

56. (Canceled)

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57. (Canceled)

58. (Canceled)

59. (Currently amended) A connector for reattaching a greater trochanter to a femur, the connector comprising:

an elongate lower portion for extending along the femur;

a plurality of bone screw openings in the elongate lower portion for fastening the lower portion along the femur;

an arcuate upper portion configured for cradling the greater trochanter, the arcuate upper portion being integral with the elongate lower portion; and

~~cable retaining structure of the arcuate upper portion for receiving a cable extending therealong and about the greater trochanter and femur for securing the arcuate upper portion thereto; and~~

a cable for being received by the cable retaining structure to extend therealong and about the greater trochanter and femur for securing the arcuate upper portion thereto.

60. (Previously presented) The connector of claim 59 wherein the lower and upper portions have a transverse width dimension with the arcuate upper portion being narrower in the width dimension than the elongate lower portion to minimize bending of the cable as the cable exits the retaining structure for extending about the femur and greater trochanter.

61. (Previously presented) The connector of claim 60 wherein the cable retaining structure comprises a cable opening, and the narrow arcuate upper portion includes an aperture and a cable holding device carried in the aperture of the narrow arcuate upper portion for being advanced in the aperture to secure the cable in the cable opening.

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62. (Previously presented) The connector of claim 61 wherein the narrow arcuate upper portion includes an enlarged width end portion having a tooth for biting into the greater trochanter.

63. (Previously presented) The connector of claim 59 wherein the arcuate upper portion includes a driver opening for allowing a driver tool to engage therewith and manipulate the arcuate upper portion from a remote position relative to the greater trochanter and femur.

64. (Canceled)

65. (Canceled)

66. (Canceled)

67. (Canceled)

68. (Canceled)

69. (Canceled)